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Appl. No. 10/617,055
Amdt. Dated Sep. 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action Mailed July 25, 2006

REMARKS

These Remarks are in response to the Office action mailed July 25th, 2006. Applicant appreciates Examiner's careful review of the application. Claims 14-16 remain pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 103

It is understood that claims 14-16 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over David D. Lowry (US 6,128,617, hereinafter referred to as Lowry) in view of Robert A. Beatty (US 6,336,053, hereinafter referred to as Beatty).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of the claims, as follows:

Claims 14 and 15

Claim 14 recites in part:

“...

displaying a magnified graphic depending on the position selection on the large scale graphic; [and]

refreshing and displaying the two graphics according to selections on the two graphics;

...”

Applicant submits that neither Lowry nor Beatty, taken alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or otherwise suggests the invention as set forth in claim 14.

On pages 2-3 of the Office action, it is stated that Lowry discloses levels and hierarchies of multiple successive graphical displays, which are

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presented to a user depending on the user's selection (Fig. 11, col. 6 lines 19-23, col. 7 lines 55-59, col. 2 lines 35-39); and that Beatty discloses graphical representation at different levels of detail, which includes among others the actual physical layout of a factory at different levels of details down to the shop floor detail (Fig. 6-8, col. 2 lines 1-22).

However, Lowry further discloses a chart navigation sequence (Fig. 4), and a plurality of charts 72-76 from which a user successively selects individual nodes (col. 7, lines 45-54). On page 3 of the Office action, it is stated that each selection from the previous chart results in a new chart/graphic (Lowry col. 6 lines 51-60). By contrast, the present invention provides only two areas for displaying graphics; that is, an area for a large scale graphic, and an area for a magnified graphic. According to the present invention, each selection from the large scale graphic results in a reload (refresh) of graphical data in the magnified graphic, rather than creating a new chart/graphic area. Specifically, the large scale graphic and the magnified graphic each reloads itself according to any selection on either the large scale graphic or the magnified graphic (Fig. 2 and para. [0021] of the present specification). That is, claim 14 of the present application does not require creating a new chart pop-up/dialogue-box once the selection is made.

In other words, the claimed feature in claim 14 of the present application requires fewer resources to display information of graphics or charts, by employing only two graphics.

Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 14 of the present application is substantially different from Lowry, at least in relation to displaying and reloading of graphics or charts. That is, Lowry fails to disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest the invention having the above-highlighted features as recited in claim 14. In addition, applicant asserts that Beatty also fails to disclose or teach the features as highlighted above.

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Furthermore, applicant submits that any combination of Lowry with Beatty does not disclose, teach, or suggest the present invention having the above-highlighted features as set forth in claim 14.

Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 14 is unobvious and patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Lowry in view of Beatty. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 14 are requested.

Because claim 15 depends directly from independent claim 14, and recites additional subject matter, claim 15 should also be allowable.

Claim 16

Claim 16 recites a method of monitoring material on shop floors of workshops of subsidiary companies of an enterprise, comprising the steps of:

- selecting a country from a large scale graphic displaying regional production worldwide by country of the enterprise;

- providing a magnified graphic for displaying regional production of the selected country;

- tabling integrated data from a database to specify the production information of the selected country;

- selecting one of said subsidiary companies from the magnified graphic;

- refreshing the large scale graphic to display the selected country and the magnified graphic to display the selected one of said subsidiary companies;

- tabling integrated data from the database to specify the production information of the selected one of said subsidiary companies;

- selecting one of said workshops from the magnified graphic;

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refreshing the large scale graphic to display the selected one of said subsidiary companies and the magnified graphic to display the selected one of said workshops;

tabling integrated data from the database to specify the production information of the selected one of said workshops;

selecting a product line from the magnified graphic;

refreshing the large scale graphic to display the selected one of said workshops and the magnified graphic to display the selected product line;
and

tabling integrated data from the database to specify the production information of the product line.

For at least reasons similar and corresponding to those asserted above in relation to claim 14, applicant submits that any combination of Lowry with Beatty does not disclose, teach, or suggest the present invention having the features as set forth in claim 16. Specifically, the combination of Lowry with Beatty does not disclose, teach, or suggest refreshing the large scale graphic and the magnified graphic to display different information respectively according to selections on either of them.

Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 16 is unobvious and patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Lowry in view of Beatty. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection and allowance of claim 16 are requested.

In view of the above remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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